

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3047

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL ROUNDUP

SUMMARY: ANOTHER "UNITARY ACTION" RALLY IN SUPPORT OF PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES AND ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1. CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SHOULD OPEN JUNE 2 AS PLANNED. LATEST RALLY COULD PRESAGE FORMATION OF NON-PARTY ORGANIZATION TO SERVE AS LINK BETWEEN AFM AND MASSES. END SUMMARY.

1. MORE PRAISE FOR VASCO GONCALVES: LATEST MANIFESTATION OF "UNITARY ACTION" THEME IN SUPPORT OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) IS ANNOUNCEMENT OF AIRPORT RALLY ON JUNE 1 TO WELCOME PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES BACK FROM BRUSSELS. NOTABLE AMONG "NON-PARTISAN" ORGANIZING COMMISSION IS CESAR DE OLIVEIRA, WHO IS CLOSE TO ADMIRAL ROSA CONTINHO. ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPONSORS STATES THAT PARTY SYMBOLS ARE NOT TO BE USED BY PARTICIPANTS. ONLY NATIONAL FLAGS AND BANNERS WITH SPECIFIED REVOLUTIONARY THEMES -- E.G. UNITY BETWEEN PEOPLE AND AFM, BATTLE OF PRODUCTION, SUPPORT FOR NATIONALIZATIONS AND AGRARIAN REFORM, NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE -- ARE PERMITTED.

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2. CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AS SCHEDULED: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SHOULD OPEN AS SCHEDULED AT 4 P.M. ON JUNE 2. SOCIALISTS, WHO HOLD NEARLY HALF OF THE ASSEMBLY'S 250 SEATS, EXPECT THEIR CANDIDATE, HENRIQUE DE BARROS, TO BE ELECTED ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT. ELECTORAL LAW ESTABLISHES THAT PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC WILL PRESIDE AT OPENING SESSION. PROCEDURES THEREAFTER WILL BE DECIDED BY ASSEMBLY ITSELF.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO ITS ORGANIZERS, LATEST RALLY WAS PLANNED BEFORE SIMILAR PCP SPONSORED EVENT WAS ANNOUNCED. INCLUSION OF ROSA COUTINHO ASSOCIATE AMONG RALLY ORGANIZERS IS SIGNIFICANT. ROSA COUTINHO HAS PUBLICLY CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CIVILIAN COUNTERPART TO AFM WHICH WOULD SERVE AS THE LINK BETWEEN MOVEMENT AND PEOPLE. RALLY COULD BE A STEP IN THIS DIRECTION. MORE SUCH RALLIES ARE EXPECTED.

4. ON OTHER HAND, CONVENING OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, WHICH CALLED INTO QUESTION BY RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS, SHOULD BOOST SAGGING MORALE OF ALL BUT COMMUNISTS. ALTHOUGH ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE LITTLE LATITUDE, IT WILL PROVIDE FOCAL POINT FOR PARTY ACTIVITY AND WILL STRENGTHEN PARTY ORGANIZATION AND SPIRIT. AFM WILL KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON ASSEMBLY TO ENSURE IT STAYS STRICTLY WITHIN CONFINES OF ITS MANDATE.
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